

# SITE WELFARE

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## Toilet Facilities

Health & Safety laws now require that building workers be provided with facilities commensurate with basic human needs. On most sites where Scandia-Hus properties are being constructed, this means that a toilet, together with hot water, a bowl, soap and a towel will need to be provided.

The most common toilet facility used on building sites these days is the chemical 'Portaloos', which has recently been given a make-over and is far removed from the bucket in a shed image often associated with building sites of the past. These may be hired on a weekly basis from specialist or plant hire companies. Servicing and cleaning is included within the hire charge. A unit will be needed as soon as workers begin on site and must remain in place until the project finishes or other more permanent facilities are available.

Sometimes permission is given for workers to use a toilet in an adjoining property or in an outhouse, and that is acceptable. However, the use of public conveniences half a mile away is not.

An electric kettle is a permitted way of providing hot water where only a handful of workers are employed at any one time. (Electricity is in any event needed for power tools.) The kettle should be safely located with a bowl, soap and towel immediately to hand. Larger sites with greater numbers of workers will require fully equipped mobile facilities, including toilets with basins, mess rooms, drying areas and even a site office.

## First Aid

First Aid should form part of any site organisation. Ready-filled First Aid boxes containing basic and approved equipment may be purchased from chemists or builders merchants. The box should be kept easily accessible to everyone working on site and be regularly checked and replenished, as necessary. Contractors are required by law to provide qualified First Aiders on sites where a number of workers are employed. Often, in the case of small concerns, the company principal is a qualified First Aider, but he or she may not always be available. Therefore, it is a good idea to display contact names and telephone numbers for use in case of emergency.